

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

REPORT

25X1
25X1

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR.

21 April 1955

SUBJECT Conference Concerning Shortages of Raw Material in the Medical Equipment Industry

NO. OF PAGES 2

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

REFERENCES

25X1

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE ACQUIRED

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

1. On 24 November 1954 a conference of the so-called Absatzleiter (sales chiefs) of nine companies, subordinate to the Branch Medizintechnik, took place in Leipzig. Companies in Saxon and Thuringian Bezirke were represented at the meeting. The conference was summoned by the Ministry for Machine Construction, General Machine Construction Section, Main Administration for Optics and Fine Mechanical Construction (Ministerium fuer Maschinenbau, Abteilung Allgemeiner Maschinenbau, Hauptverwaltung Feinmechanik-Optik). Falkenstein (fnu) appeared as a representative of this Ministry. Representatives of the German Domestic and Foreign Trade (Deutscher Innen- und Aussenhandel - DIA) were also present. The following companies, among others, were included:

Injektor Steinach, Thuringia
Medizintechnik Leipzig
Medizintechnik Dohna near Pirna
Medizintechnik Koenigsberg, Thuringia
Wagenfabrik Oschatz and Dresden
VEB Schott and Genessee, Jena

2. The conference was called because export orders had been cancelled by each of the above-named plants. Reasons given for these cancellations were that no raw material was available and the orders had been accepted with a total lack of judgement. The following case was cited as the most recent example of the problem: The usual manufacturer of ureter-catheters in Germany was the firm, Ruggen, in Romelschhausen near Stuttgart. An attempt had been made by the DDR to produce these products and capture the market dominated by the West German firm. Injektor Chemnitz received an order to manufacture these instruments. Even the East German medical specialists described the resulting instruments as completely useless because they were not equipped with the indispensable Japanese silk and a special coating. The instruments already distributed throughout the East Bloc countries were returned, particularly by Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, as unusable and the firm had cancelled the execution of orders in this field.

25X1
25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

STATE	X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI	AEC	DRR	OST	Ev	x
-------	---	------	----	------	----	-----	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	---

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

25X1

-2-

25X1

3. The purpose of the conference was to determine why the exported medical equipment was not satisfactory and also why the enterprises in this field had suspended manufacture of articles required in mass quantities. The discussion indicated that all of the medical-technical enterprises of the DDR were opposed to instituting production of items required in mass quantities. Conference participants from those enterprises concerned were of the opinion that production had been stopped because the necessary raw materials were not available. The conference was concluded without finding a solution to the problem of the shortage of raw materials.

25X1

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

25X1